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## Fourth Committee

**Summary record of the 23rd meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 15 November 2002, at 10 a.m.

*Chairman*: Mr. Maitland ..... (South Africa)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m.*

**Agenda item 76: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East** *(continued)* (A/C.4/57/4, A/C.4/57/L.9-L.15)

1. **The Chairman** noted that the Committee would have to take decisions on draft resolutions introduced under this item. He indicated that the list of co-sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.9 should have included France, and the list for draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.10, Denmark.

2. **Mr. Loosdrecht** (Netherlands) introduced the draft resolution entitled "Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East" (A/C.4/57/L.10). He briefly acquainted those present with the contents of the draft and recommended it for adoption.

3. **Mr. Adamhar** (Indonesia) introduced the draft resolutions entitled "Persons displaced as a result of June 1967 and subsequent hostilities" (A/C.4/57/L.11), "Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestinian refugees" (A/C.4/57/L.12), "Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East" (A/C.4/57/L.13), "Palestinian refugees' properties and their revenues " (A/C.4/57/L.14), and "University of Jerusalem 'Al-Quds' for Palestinian refugees" (A/C.4/57/L.15). Briefly acquainting those present with the contents of the draft resolutions, he pointed out that their language essentially matched that of the resolutions of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, except for a few changes. The draft resolution primarily affected by the changes was draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.13, which was due to the need to reflect various events and problems that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) had encountered in the past year in its work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. He pointed out that, in the tenth preambular paragraph of that draft resolution, the word "civilian" should be added before the word "inhabitant." He expressed the hope that the draft resolutions would be adopted with support that would be as broad as possible if a consensus could not be reached.

4. **Mr. Abu Zeid** (Egypt) introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to Palestine refugees" (A/C.4/57/L.9). He briefly acquainted those present with the contents of the draft and called for the broadest support for it.

5. **Mr. Mekel** (Israel) said that, as he had already indicated during the general debate on the item under consideration, Israel fully supported UNRWA's humanitarian mission and would continue, to the best of its ability, to ensure that the Agency was able to carry out its humanitarian mandate. In that connection, the Israeli delegation would support the resolution funding UNRWA. At the same time, it was opposed to the draft resolutions on the item under consideration that attempted to prejudge the results of the negotiations between the parties.

6. For example, draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.13 contained a reference to events in Jenin. Meanwhile, it was widely known today that what had happened there was in no way similar to the version given by Palestinian officials. A battle had taken place in Jenin in which 56 Palestinians (the overwhelming majority of them militants) and 23 Israeli soldiers had lost their lives. On the Palestinian side, the battle was fought by a vast terrorist network that had been created in the refugee camp in violation of international law and Security Council resolutions that spoke of the need to maintain the civilian character of the refugee camps. Such a description of what had happened was confirmed by numerous reporters and independent observers, among them the Secretary General in his recent report on the events in Jenin. That, however, was not reflected in the draft resolution.

7. Like most of the other draft resolutions, that draft was not at all in accord with the lawful tasks involved in providing assistance to the Palestinian refugees. For that reason, Israel urged the States Members not to support those or other resolutions that, rather than facilitate a dialogue between the parties, perpetuated groundless myths.

8. In conclusion, the speaker drew attention to the A/C.4/57/4 document, which, along with other materials, had been released to the delegations at the beginning of the meeting. That document provided the Government of Israel's response to the UNRWA Commissioner-General's report. It was the Government of Israel's first such written response to the Agency's

reports. Every year, after the Government of Israel had received the draft of that report, several meetings would be arranged in Israel at which UNRWA would be informed of Israel's reaction. To date, however, that reaction had not been reflected in the final reports, and that is why it was decided to publish the Government's response in a separate document. He said that that document was the only document that provided a balanced and accurate account of UNRWA operations.

9. **The Chairman** indicated that the co-sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.9 had been joined by Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Iceland, Lithuania, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the co-sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.10, by Cyprus, Iceland, Japan, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Norway, Poland, Senegal, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey; the co-sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.4/57/L.11-L.15, by Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal. Afghanistan, however, had withdrawn its name from among the co-sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.4/57/L.11, A/C.4/57/L.14, and A/C.4/57/L.15.

10. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.9.*

*In favour :*

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Columbia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qaatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel.

*Abstaining:*

Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States.

11. *The draft resolution was adopted by 148 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions.*

12. *Draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.10 was adopted.*

13. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.11.*

*In favour*:

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Columbia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait,

Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States.

*Abstaining:*

Honduras, Nauru, Papua New Guinea.

14. *The draft resolution was adopted by 147 votes to 4, with 3 abstentions.*

15. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.12.*

*In favour:*

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Columbia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

None.

*Abstaining:*

Israel.

16. *The draft resolution was adopted by 153 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

17. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.13 with an oral correction.*

*In favour:*

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Columbia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic,

Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States.

*Abstaining:*

Papua New Guinea.

18. *The draft resolution was adopted by 147 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.*

19. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.14.*

*In favour:*

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Columbia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States.

*Abstaining:*

Honduras, Nauru, Papua New Guinea.

20. *The draft resolution was adopted by 147 votes to 4, with 3 abstentions.*

21. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.15.*

*In favour:*

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cambodia,

Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Columbia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States.

*Abstaining:*

Nauru, Papua New Guinea.

22. ***The draft resolution was adopted by 148 votes to 4, with 2 abstentions.***

23. **Ms. Price** (Canada) pointed out that her delegation had voted for draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.13 because Canada firmly supported the work of UNRWA. That organization played a role in encouraging a culture of peace in the region. The Canadian delegation urged that the advocacy of inflammatory sentiment not be allowed in the education system operating with the Agency's support.

24. **Mr. Blazey** (Australia) pointed out that his delegation had voted for draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.13 because Australia supported UNRWA and because, on the whole, the draft resolution depicted the Agency's role and financial condition appropriately. At the same time, the Australian delegation was concerned about the resolution's lack of balance: specifically, the reference to the events in the Jenin refugee camp was not accompanied by a reference to the fact that the international community was disturbed by the presence of weapons in the refugee camps and by the mounting of attacks on Israel's civilian population from those camps. All parties must abandon violence and return to the negotiating table as soon as possible.

25. **The Chairman** declared that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 76.

**Agenda item 77: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories** *(continued)* (A/C.4/57/L.16-L.18, A/C.4/57/L.19/Rev.1, and A/C.4/57/L.20)

26. **The Chairman** noted that the Committee would have to take decisions on draft resolutions introduced under this item.

27. **Ms. Wilkinson** (Secretary of the Committee), addressing the question of the effects of draft resolution A/C.4/47/L.16 on the budget for the programmes and referring to information from the Budget Division, said that the General Assembly had allocated $ 232,700 for the activities of the Special Committee in the biennium of 2002-2003. She also reminded the Committee of the procedures stipulated in section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990 for considering administrative and budgetary questions.

28. **Mr. Requeijo Gual** (Cuba) introduced the draft resolutions entitled "Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (A/C.4/57/L.16), "Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and other occupied Arab territories"

(A/C.4/57/L.17), "Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan" (A/C.4/57/L.18), "Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem" (A/C.4/57/L.19/Rev.1), and "Occupied Syrian Golan" (A/C.4/57/L.20). He briefly acquainted those present with the contents of the draft resolutions and orally corrected draft resolutions A/C.4/57/L.17, A/C.4/57/L.18, and A/C.4/57/L.19/Rev.1. In their titles, the word "East" should be placed just before the word "Jerusalem." The very same correction would have to be inserted into paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.19/Rev.1.

29. The process of preparing those draft resolutions had been lengthy and complicated. An attempt had been made in the drafts to take into account the interests and concerns of an entire array of delegations in order to increase the number of countries voting for the drafts and portray in them as objectively as possible the facts set forth in the reports of the Special Committee on that question. In that connection, it was surprising that two delegations had called for votes against the drafts even before they had been submitted to the Secretariat. That proved that the real issue was not in the specific language used in the drafts, but in the sum and substance of the ideas contained in them.

30. The Cuban delegation urged all delegations to vote for the draft resolutions introduced and thereby show strong support for the just cause of the Palestinian people and other Arabs living in the occupied territories. That would contribute, specifically, to ensuring strict compliance with Security Council resolutions, which are binding and not optional, as some would have it.

31. The day would come when such draft resolutions would no longer be needed. That would happen after the Israeli occupation ended and when the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs in the occupied territories, including the right of the Palestinian people to create their own independent State with a capital in East Jerusalem, were enforced.

32. **Mr. Mekel** (Israel) said that his delegation would vote against all the draft resolutions pertaining to the Special Committee. The Special Committee was merely disseminating hostile propaganda against Israel, which neither promoted peace between the parties nor helped to improve the condition of the Palestinian people. The roots of the Special Committee's bias lay in its very mandate. That was why its work, at best, produced nothing and was, at worst, counter-productive. Because of that, the Committee should be disbanded and the money that would be saved used to provide real assistance both to Israelis and to Palestinians. All States that were for peace in the Middle East should vote against all the draft resolutions under the item.

33. **The Chairman** reported that Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal had joined as co-sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.4/57/L.16-L.18, A/C.4/57/L.19/Rev 1, and A/C.4/57/L.20 and that Afghanistan had withdrawn its name as a co-sponsor of those resolutions.

34. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.16.*

*In favour:*

Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Columbia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States.

*Abstaining:*

Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia,

Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Yugoslavia.

35. *The draft resolution was adopted by 82 votes to 5, with 62 abstentions.*

36. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.17 with an oral correction.*

*In favour:*

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Columbia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States.

*Abstaining:*

Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu.

37. *The draft resolution was adopted by 145 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.*

38. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.18 with an oral correction.*

*In favour:*

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Columbia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the

Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Tuvalu, United States.

*Abstaining:*

Papua New Guinea.

39. *The draft resolution was adopted by 145 votes to 6, with 1 abstention.*

40. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.19/Rev.1 with oral corrections.*

*In favour:*

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Columbia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States.

*Abstaining:*

Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu.

41. *The draft resolution was adopted by 141 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.*

42. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.20.*

*In favour:*

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Columbia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea,

Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel.

*Abstaining:*

Honduras, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, United States.

43. *The draft resolution was adopted by 144 votes to 1, with 7 abstentions.*

44. **Ms. Price** (Canada) said that her delegation had abstained from voting on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.16 because, although Canada did not condone acts of violence on either side, it nonetheless felt that references to the actions of only one side were not conducive to restoring a dialogue.

45. The Canadian delegation voted for draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.17, believing that the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949 (Fourth Geneva Convention) applied to the occupied Palestinian territories. For that reason and despite serious reservations, Canada had agreed to participate in the Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention in December 2001.

46. As for the draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.19/Rev.1, the Canadian delegation again voted for its adoption based on its longstanding opposition to Israeli practices affecting the human rights of Palestinians and other Arabs in the occupied territories, although the negative portrayal of the practices of only one side would not contribute to the achievement of peace. Deploring the acts of violence of both sides, the Canadian delegation specifically condemned terrorist acts. In connection with the fifteenth preambular paragraph, Canada believed that its language implied the need for the consent of both sides to the presence of any international observers.

47. **Mr. Laggner** (Switzerland) said that the Swiss delegation had voted for draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.17, but regretted that some of the corrections it had proposed had not been taken into consideration. Those corrections pertained to the declaration adopted at the Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention. That declaration affirmed the applicability of the Convention to the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, as well as the general obligations of all the Parties to the Convention, the obligations of the parties in conflict, and the specific obligations of Israel as the occupying Power.

48. The Swiss delegation noted that the draft resolution mentioned only the obligations of Israel and completely ignored the obligations of the Palestinian side, which must take measures to put an end to the acts of violence against the civilian population. Switzerland again appealed to all parties in the conflict to fulfill their obligations under international humanitarian law and expressed certainty that compliance with the norms of humanitarian law was also a measure for strengthening trust between the parties and was conducive to both a ceasefire and the resumption of a political dialogue.

49. **Mr. Blazey** (Australia) said that the Australian delegation had again abstained from voting on the draft resolution regarding the work of the Special Committee (A/C.4/57/L.16), believing that the one-sided criticism and the assignment of all blame to one party was not conducive to success in the matter. Australia condemned the actions of the suicide-bombers and the terrorist acts against the civilian population, which were not mentioned in the draft resolution.

50. The Australian delegation had voted for the adoption of draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.17, despite the reference in it to the Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, in which Australia had not participated. Paragraph 13 of the declaration adopted at that Conference should not be taken to mean that Israel was violating or had violated article 147 of the Convention.

51. As for draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.18, Australia condemned all illegal acts of violence, regardless of who committed them. In that connection, Australia

regarded the language of paragraph 5 of the draft resolution to be unbalanced.

52. Australia had voted to adopt draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.19/Rev.1 because it condemned without reservation the indiscriminate use of force by Israeli troops against peaceful Palestinians and categorically condemned the acts of suicide-bombers against Israel's civilian population. Although Australia supported the draft resolution on that question as it had before, it cautioned against one-sided criticism, because that was not conducive to the achievement of a lasting peace.

53. **Ms. Løj** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union, as well as Bulgaria, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, and Estonia, said that their delegations had abstained from voting on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.16 because the European Union believed that the mandate of the Special Committee did not take sufficient account of the current situation, and the questions that the Special Committee was addressing would be better addressed in a different forum.

54. The delegations of the States named had voted for draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.19/Rev.1. The European Union had already stated its position regarding the Jenin events that were cited in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution at the resumed tenth emergency special session. The European Union condemned the actions of the armed groups of both parties that endangered the civilian population.

55. The European Union again declared its firm commitment to the achievement of a just, lasting, and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East and expressed its unfailing willingness to work closely with partners from the Quartet and from among Arab countries to support the efforts of the parties to reach a final settlement of the Middle East conflict.

56. **Ms. Abdelhady Nasser** (Observer for Palestine) expressed her appreciation to the delegates who voted for the adoption of the draft resolutions and said that the support of the draft resolution on the work of UNRWA by the majority of the delegations pointed to the international community's acknowledgement of the value of the Agency's work. She hoped that that political support would be backed by financial support of UNRWA at the forthcoming pledging conference. The Observer for Palestine expressed her appreciation to the delegations that voted for the adoption of the draft resolutions under agenda item 77 and expressed regret at the Israeli representative's comments regarding the deterioration of the living conditions of Palestinians in the occupied territories, as well as at the fact that, despite the obvious deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories, the position of some delegations regarding the draft resolutions had not changed.

57. She was pleased with the support for the draft resolution on the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem. Palestine fully supported the declaration adopted at the Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention. In that connection, the declaration formulated the obligations on three levels: the obligations of the parties in conflict; the obligations of the occupying Power as a violator of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention; and the obligations of the High Contracting Parties Parties to the Convention. Unfortunately, the corrections were submitted too late to be fully taken into account.

58. **Mr. Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the vote affirmed that the international community supported the Syrian Arab Republic's right to the return of the occupied territory. Specifically, the vote affirmed that the countries of the world reject the occupation and the accompanying destruction. The universal support of the resolution on the occupied Syrian Golan meant that Israel stood isolated and that the occupation and annexation of the Syrian Golan were unacceptable. He appealed to the countries that had abstained from the vote to join the majority.

59. **Mr. Mekel** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, thanked the delegations that had not supported the one-sided resolutions under consideration by the Committee. Israel wanted to conclude a peaceful agreement with the Syrian Arab Republic. It was interested in direct negotiations with all its neighbors. Unfortunately, the Syrian Arab Republic was not interested in peace and was supporting terrorist organizations, and that was why it had been placed on the list of terrorist-supporting States.

60. **Mr. Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Syrian Arab Republic had opened the door to peace and had negotiated with Israel for 10 years. Israel, however,

wanted to keep the occupied territories and had not changed its decision about annexing them. Israel's allegations were pure propaganda and were meant to mislead Committee members. An absolute majority of countries had supported the resolution. Israel was resorting to falsification, lies, and distortions. The Arab side was committed to achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

**Organization of work**

61. **The Chairman** said that, during the session, the Committee had adopted 24 draft resolutions and had taken 3 decisions. It had held a total of 23 meetings, at which it had considered agenda items pertaining to decolonization, outer space, atomic radiation, peacekeeping operations, information, UNRWA, and the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices.

62. After an exchange of amenities in which **Mr. Adamhar** (Indonesia), **Mr. Abebe** (Ethiopia), **Ms. Molaroni** (San Marino), and **Mr. Loedel** (Uruguay) took part, the Chairman declared that the Fourth Committee had completed its work on the main portion of the fifty-seventh session.

*The meeting rose at 12:30 p.m.*